

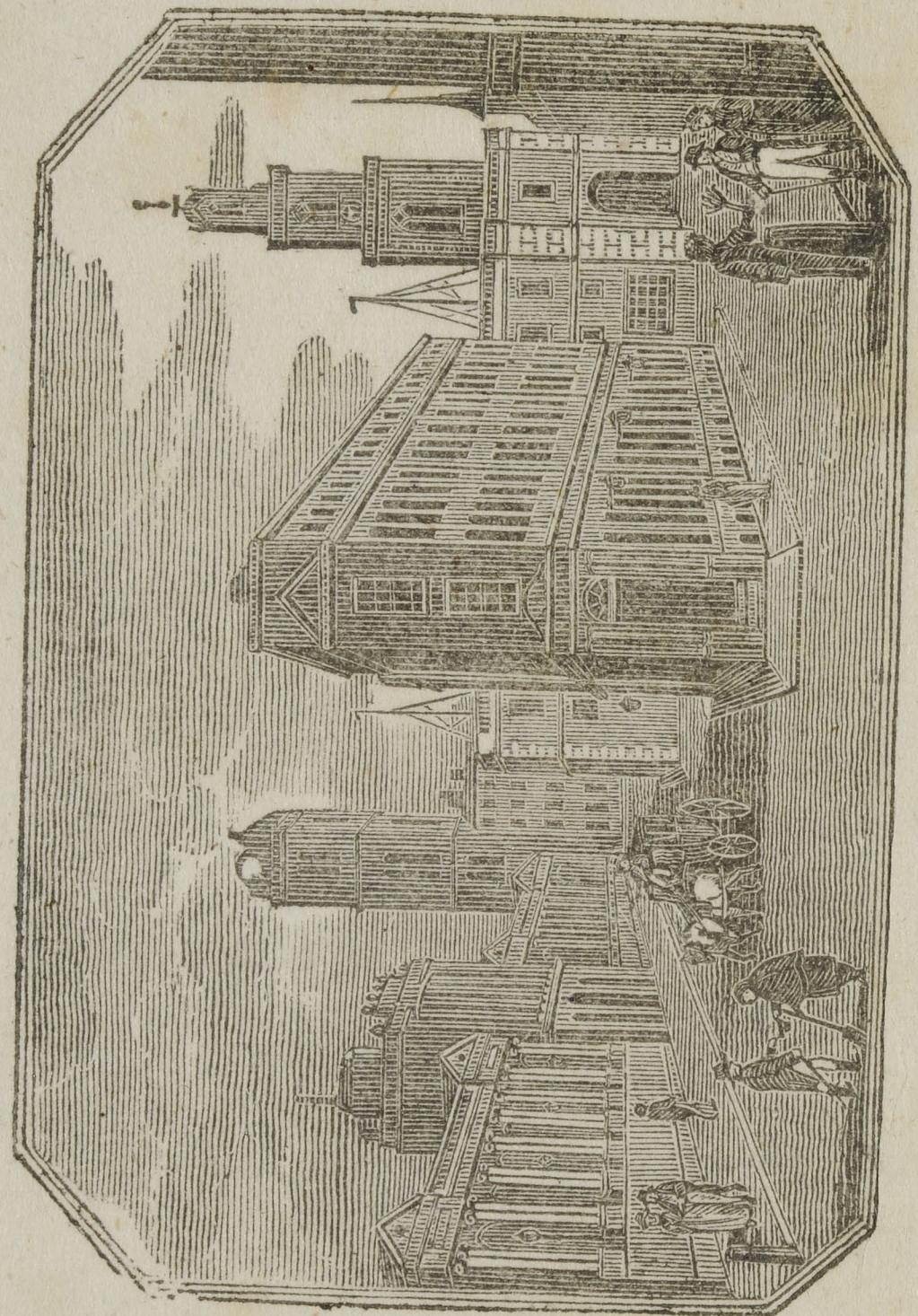
THE
WONDERS
OF THE
British Metropolis;
BEING AN
INSTRUCTIVE AND AMUSING SKETCH
OF
LONDON,
FOR THE
AMUSEMENT OF YOUTH.

ORNAMENTED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THOMAS TEGG, 111, CHEAPSIDE,
AND J. DICK, EDINBURGH.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE AND BANK.



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[c. 1810]

Plummer and Brewis, Printers, Love Lane, Eastcheap.

LONDON.

ROYAL EXCHANGE.

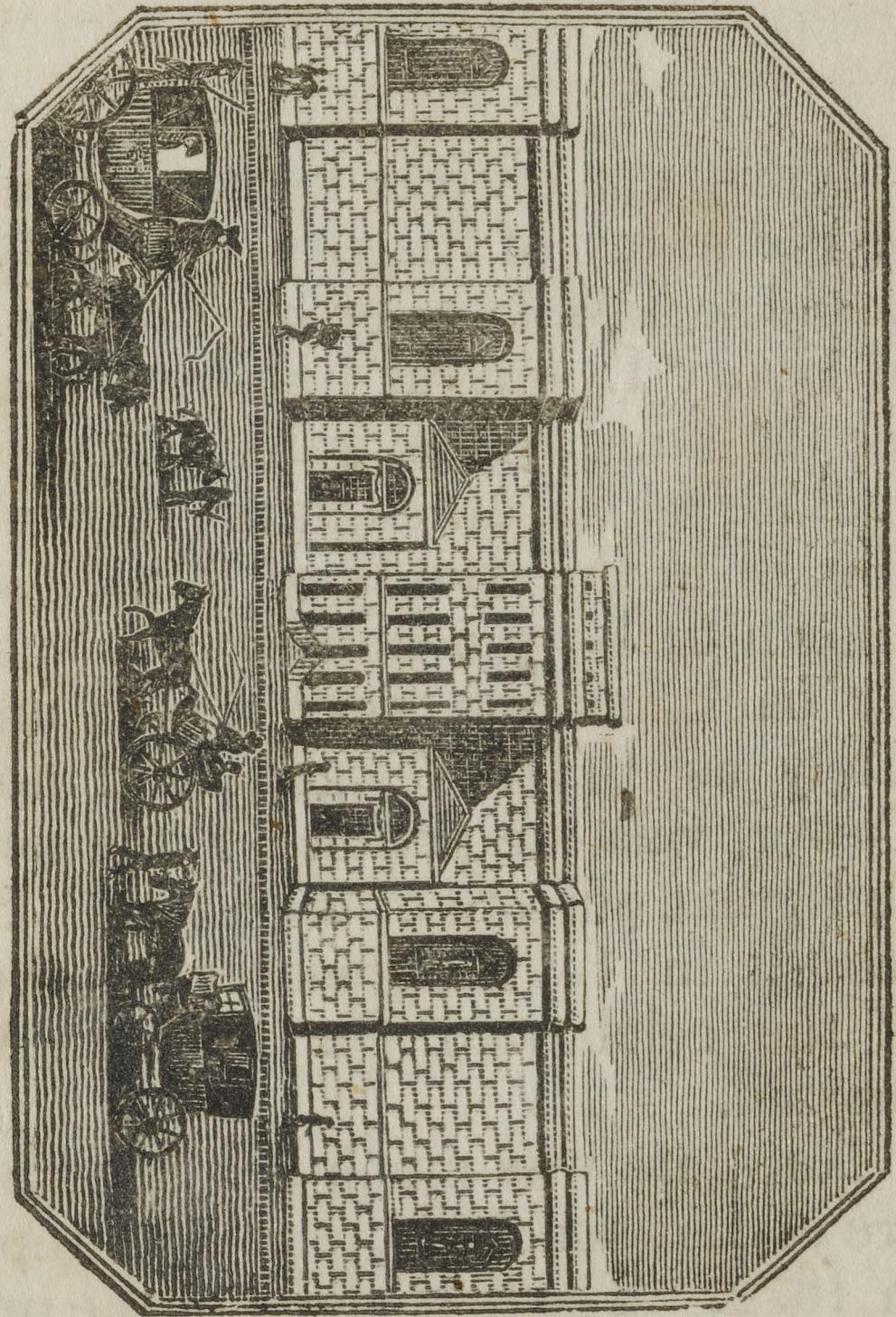
THE Royal Exchange is situated on the northern side of Cornhill. Its architecture is of a mixed kind, and executed with a bad taste; yet its principal outlines have something elegant in their proportions and appearance. The original structure was founded in 1566, by Sir Thomas Gresham, after the model of that of Antwerp. In 1570, Queen Elizabeth went to the Bourse, as it was called, visited every part of the building, and then, by sound of trumpet, proclaimed it the "Royal Exchange."

This edifice was destroyed by the great fire in 1666, and re-built in its

present form by Sir Christopher Wren, at the expence of 80,000l. It is 56 feet high, and from the centre rises a weather-cock, of copper, gilt, in the shape of a grasshopper, the arms of the founder. In this turret is an excellent clock, with four dials, which goes with chimes, at three, six, nine, and twelve o'clock, on 12 bells. It has two fronts, north and south, each of which has a piazza. In the centre of each front is a lofty gate-way, leading to the area, which is 144 feet by 117. The whole extent of the building is 203 feet by 171. A staircase in the south front, and another in the north, leading to a gallery above, run round the whole building, which has a number of rooms. In the original plan, shops filled the building to the top; but at present, the upper rooms, are occupied by Lloyd's celebrated subscription coffee-house, for the use of the underwriters and merchants; by the Royal Exchange Assurance Office, &c.

The Bank of England is situated at the back of the Royal Exchange, to the north.

NEWGATE.



A

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NEWGATE derives its name from one of the gates of the city, generally supposed to have been erected in the reign of Henry I. several hundred years after the four original gates. A common gaol for felons, taken in the city of London, or in the county of Middlesex, is known to have occupied this spot, as far back as the year 1218; and as lately as 1457, Newgate, and not the Tower, was the prison for the nobility and great officers of the state. It was rebuilt in 1422, agreeably to the will of the celebrated Sir Richard Whittington.

Newgate was much damaged by the fire of London 1666, and was repaired in 1672. The first stone of the present prison was laid on the 31st May, 1770, during Beckford's mayoralty. It was nearly destroyed by the rioters in 1780; but has since been restored, and now

presents a handsome front to the west, consisting of two wings, the debtor's and felon's side, with the keeper's house in the centre. The north side, appropriated to debtors, consists of two court yards. The largest, occupied by the men, is 79 feet 6 inches long, by 31 feet 6 inches wide; the women's court is of the same length, and about half the width. They are both considered as too small. The wards, by which they are surrounded, rise three stories above the pavement. A wall, 15 feet in height, separates the male and female debtors. The respective appellations of the four sides are, the master's side, the cabin (from the cabin bedsteads in it) the common side, and the women's side. The apartments of the men are fourteen in number; all of them, excepting one that occupies in length the whole side of the prison, nearly of the same dimensions, 23 feet by 15. The number of inhabitants in each of these rooms is from 12 to 20; the largest sometimes containing as many as 30. The debtor's side seldom contains

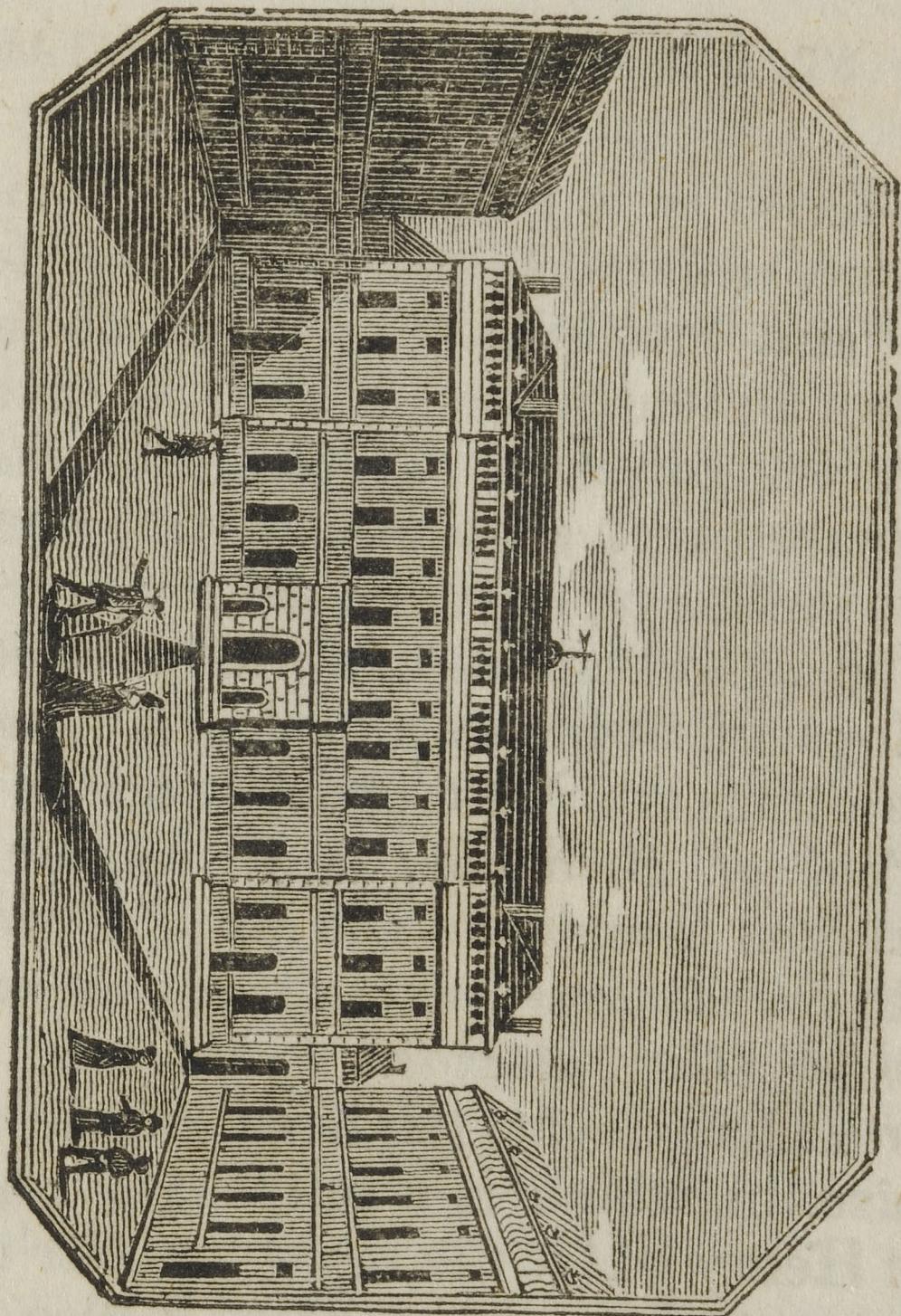
fewer than two hundred, and sometimes as many as three hundred. The women have two rooms; one of them the whole length of the debtor's court, the other much smaller. The inhabitants of these, though seldom numerous, are sometimes crowded. The painted room, so called from having been painted by a prisoner, has been occupied by one who is not a debtor, ever since the prison was repaired, after the riots of 1780. This apartment serves as a room for case of conscience debtors. Two very close rooms, one at the bottom of the master's side, and another of the common side, are used as chandler's shops by day, and sleeping rooms by night. The windows of all the rooms are only toward the court; consequently the air which is breathed by the prisoners is extremely impure. The daily allowance of each debtor is ten ounces of bread, and a pound and a half of potatoes. Those on the poor women's sides have eight stone of beef weekly, without bone, sent in by the sheriff. They also enjoy the benefit of

several legacies, to the amount of fifty-two pounds five shillings and sixpence a year. On the master's side, debtors pay half a guinea, eighteen pence of which is spent in beer, and the remainder appropriated to the purchase of coals, candles, wood, mops, brooms, pails, &c. Those who plead poverty are employed in keeping the rooms clean. Tables of fees, rules, and notice to prisoners, informing them that they may send their children to school, free of expence, are hung up in the court. On the south side of the prison, felons, libellers, offenders against government, and persons for small offences are confined. The court in this side is about the same size as the former; and the rooms are generally in good condition, being frequently let as single rooms to the better sort of prisoners, who can afford to pay. Some years ago, the bottom room was inhabited by Lord George Gordon, who, after several years close confinement, for libelling the late queen of France, died there of the gaol distemper. In four other yards, felons

are lodged, and in another women felons; among, them, however, are some persons fined. On the felons side, the prisoners amount from a hundred and forty to nearly three hundred in number. They receive fewer legacies than the debtors do.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

THIS is a magnificent building of stone, situated between Christ's Hospital and Smithfield, from which last it has an entrance, under a spacious arched gateway, which leads into a square court, surrounded with four noble buildings, of very good architecture. The grand stair-case was painted by Hogarth, at his own cost. Among the paintings are, *the Good Samaritan*; *the Pool of Bethesda*; and *Rahere* (the original founder of the hospital) *laying the foundations*; with *a sick man carried on a Bier, attended by Monks*. The great hall is at the head of the stair-case, in which is a full length portrait of Henry VIII. the royal founder of the present institution. Here is also a full length portrait of Dr. Ratcliffe, who left 100l. per annum to this hospital, for the improvement of the diet; and 100l. per annum for providing linen. In this

room is a fine piece of St. Bartholomew, with a knife (the symbol of his martyrdom) in his hand. On one of the windows is painted *Henry VIII. delivering the charter to the lord mayor.* There is also a very fine portrait in this room of Percival Pott, many years surgeon of this hospital. It was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds; and is esteemed a striking likeness of that eminent surgeon.

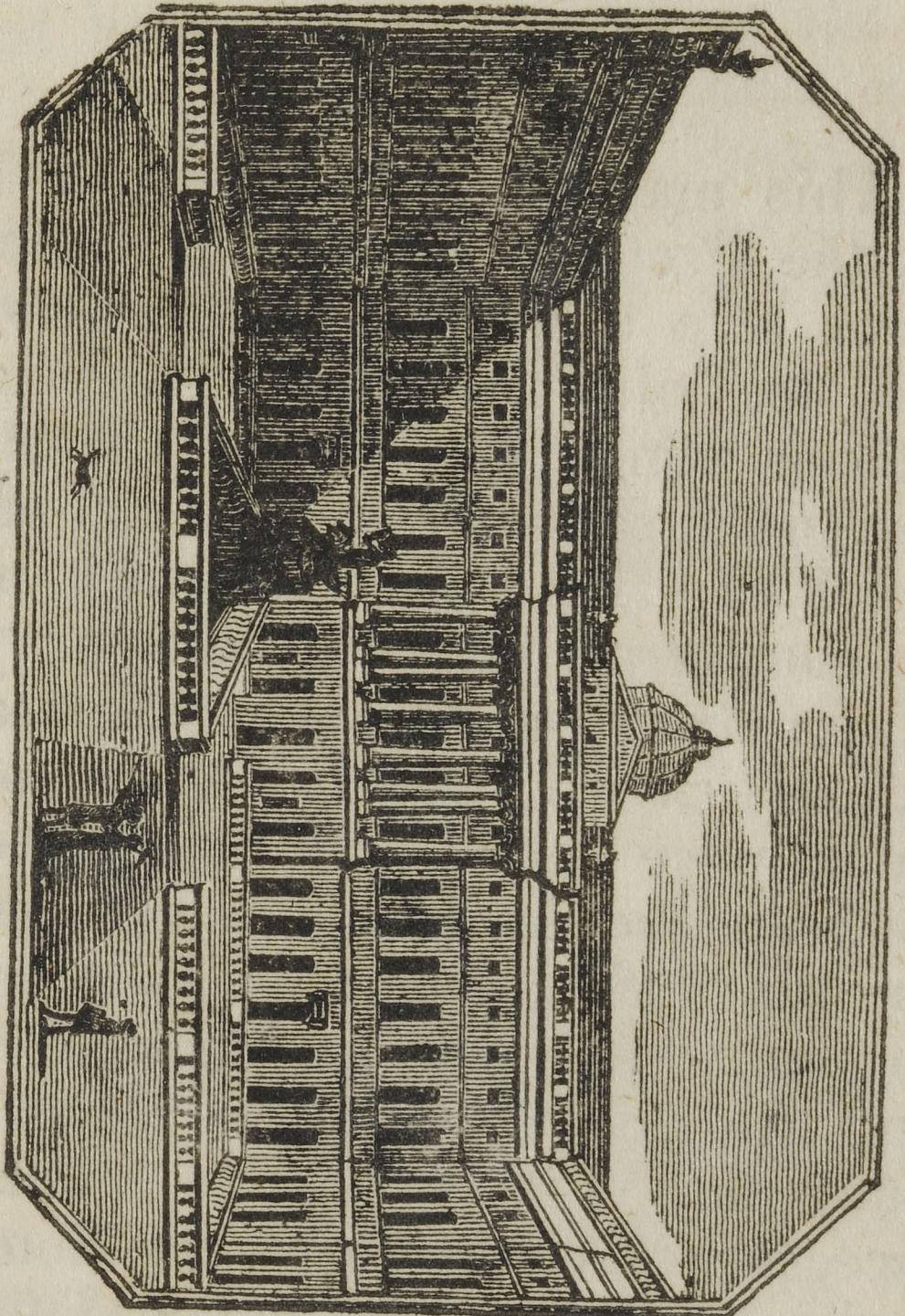
St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1102, by Rahere, minstrel to Henry I. Rahere, retiring from the gay offices of his situation, founded a priory, which he dedicated to St. Bartholomew, of which he was the first prior. He afterwards obtained from the king a piece of waste ground near his priory, on which he founded this hospital for the sick and maimed, placing it under the care of the priory. The priory and hospital was surrendered to Henry VIII. and that monarch in the last year of his reign, granted the hospital to the city, for the relief of the sick and maimed.

The present building was erected in the reign of George II. (in 1730) Sir Richard Brocas, Knight, being lord mayor, and president of the hospital. Belonging to the establishment of this hospital, are three physicians, three surgeons, three assistant-surgeons, and an apothecary, besides dressers, &c.

Of this establishment we may justly speak with the warmest admiration. That most urgent and helpless of all cases, of a poor person, mangled in his body, or limbs, by accident, without means, in himself or friends, of procuring medical aid, is relieved without reserve or delay, and is as skilfully treated as if he commanded the wealth of the richest inhabitant of London.

Of the other hospitals in the metropolis, the same may be generally observed; but we take the opportunity of speaking of St. Bartholomew's, to mention these topics, which ought not, for the honour of London, to be forgotten.

SOMERSET HOUSE.



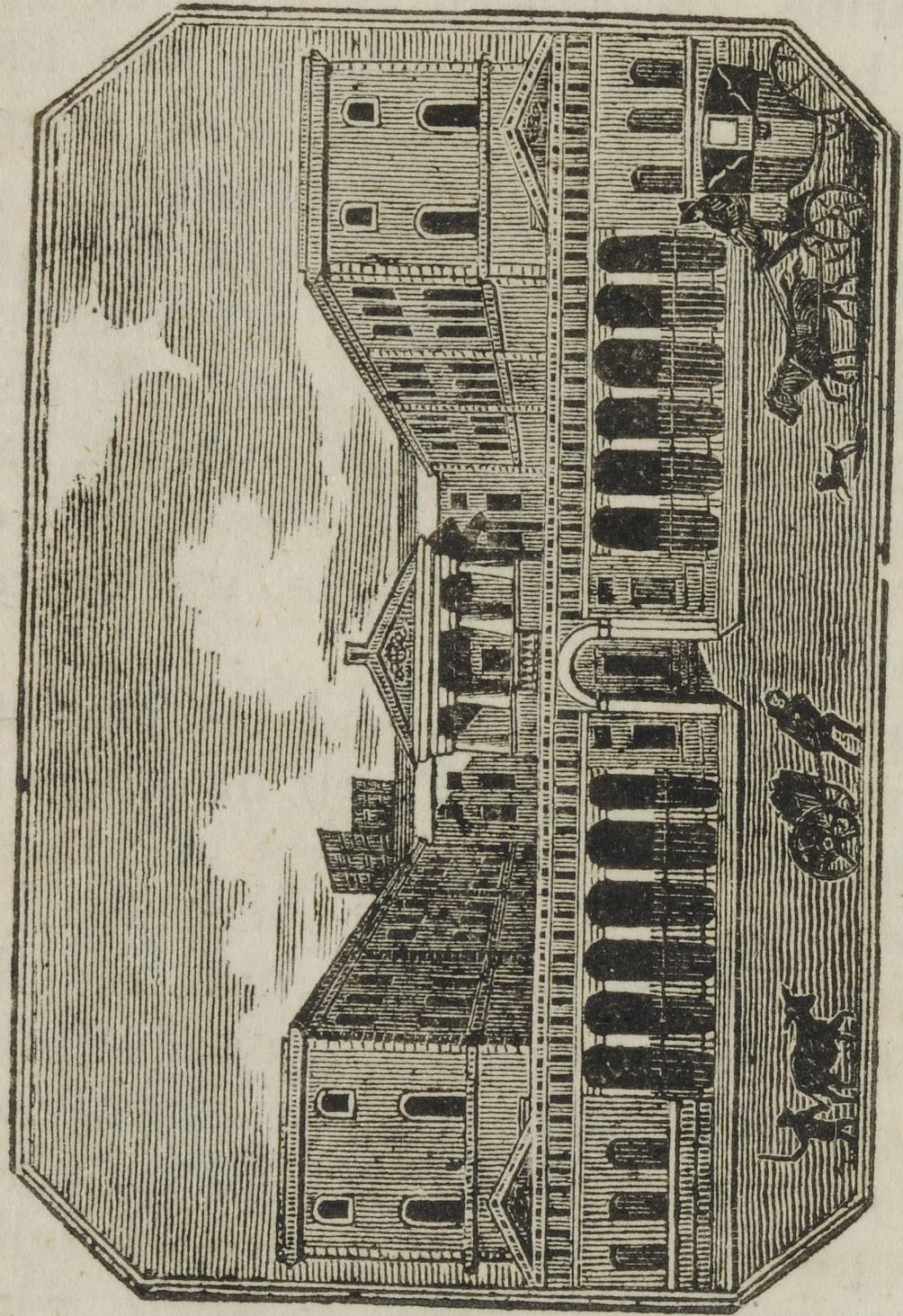
SOMERSET HOUSE.

This magnificent palace, was built by the Protector Somerset, upon the ruins of a number of bishop's houses, and the old church of St. Mary le Strand, which Mr. Pennant says, fell victims to sacrilige in the reign of Edward VI. No atonement was made, no compensation to the owners. Part of the church of St. John of Jerusalem, at Clerkenwell, and the tower of the same, were blown up for the materials for Somerset-house. The cloisters on the north side of St. Paul's underwent the same fate with the charnel house and the chapel, and the bones were flung into Finsbury fields. This palace, however, the Protector Somerset never enjoyed, as he fell a victim on the scaffold in 1552. After his death this palace fell to the crown. Lord Hunsdon too had the use of it, and here it is probable Queen Elizabeth

lived sometime at his expence. Anne of Denmark kept her court here, and Catharine, the Queen of Charles II. lived here some time during the life of her unfaithful spouse, and afterwards, till she retired to Portugal.

Sir William Chambers was the architect of the present magnificent building. The navy-office is here, and indeed almost all the public-offices, excepting the treasury, the secretary of state's, the admiralty, the war-office, the excise, &c.

The Royal Society, and the Society of Antiquarians, hold their meetings in different suits of apartments in Somerset-house. The Royal Academy, is also held here, and the room on the ground floor, during the annual exhibition, contains statues, plans, elevations, and drawings. The exhibition, when the paintings are shewn generally, opens in the last week in April, when every person pays a shilling for admission, and a shilling for a catalogue; but the last is optional.

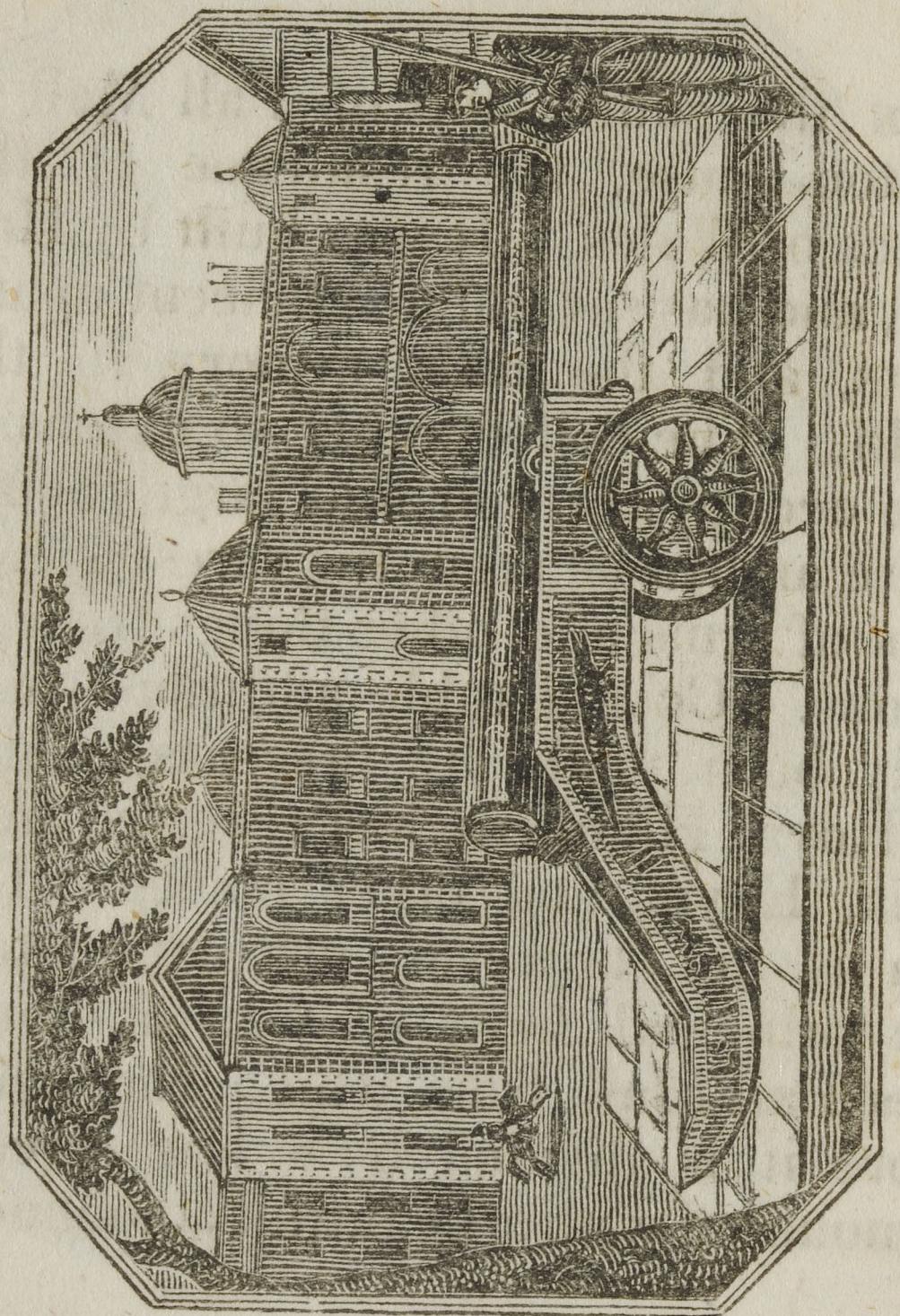


CARLTON HOUSE.

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ON the south side of Pall Mall is Carlton-house, the residence of the Prince of Wales. It was built by Holland, and has several magnificent apartments, and the finest armory in the world. The collection is so extensive as to occupy three or four large rooms, where are to be seen the rarest specimens of arms and other things from all nations. Considerable additions have lately been made by presents, which his Royal Highness has received from India, Egypt, and other places. The plan is not, however, yet completed. The principal front of Carlton-house faces Pall Mall, from which the court before it is divided by a low screen, surmounted with a beautiful colonnade.

THE HOUSE GUARDS, ADMIRALTY, &c.



THE HORSE GUARDS, ADMIRALTY,
TREASURY, &c.

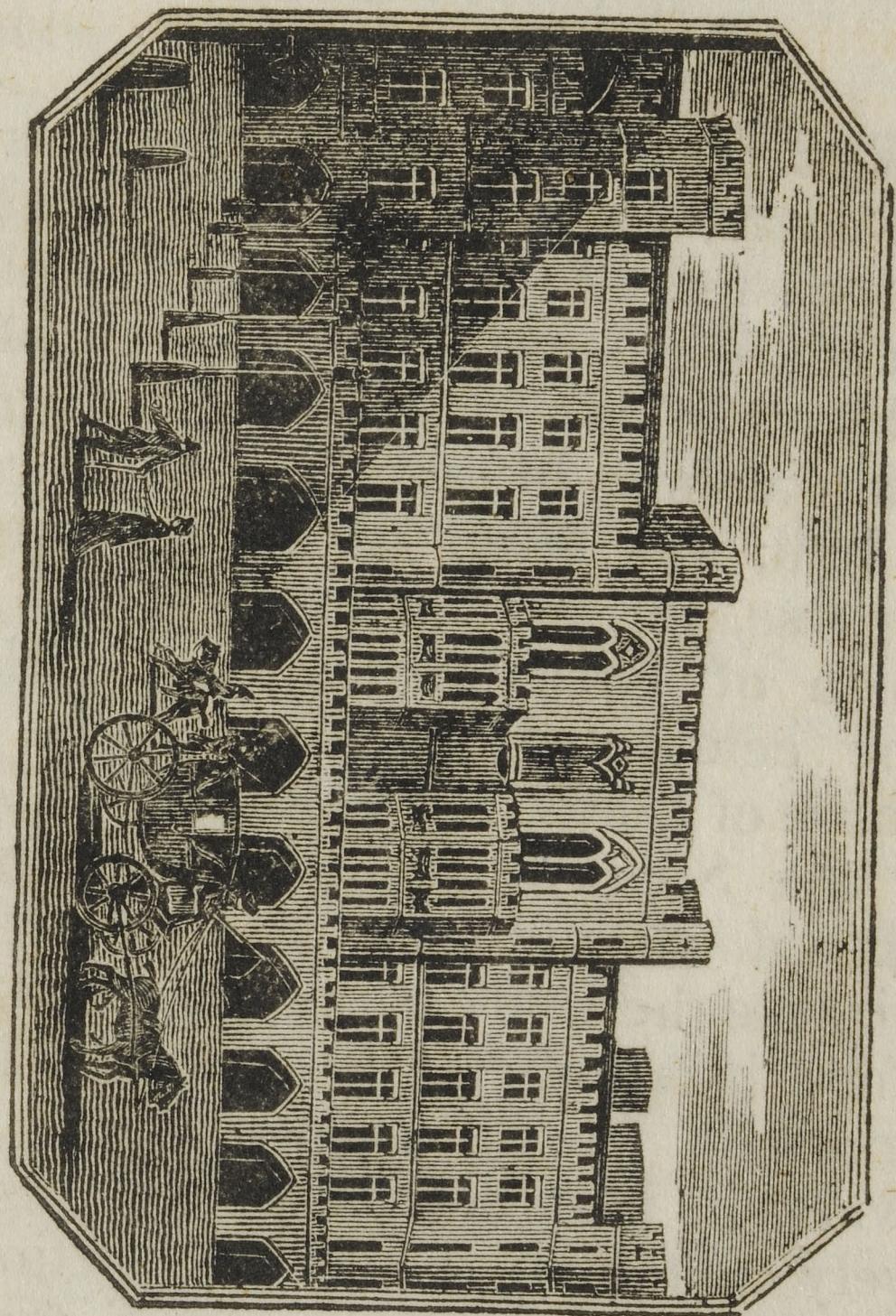
THE *Horse Guards* is a building of stone that divides Parliament-street from the eastern end of St. James's Park, to which it is the principal entrance. The architect was Vardy, and the building cost upwards of 30,000l. It derives its name from the two regiments of life-guards (usually called the horse-guards) mounting guard there. Of this structure little can be said in its commendation or dispraise. Its effect is, perhaps equally removed from every thing mean and every thing grand, but it is much too regular. Under two small pavilions, centinels, mounted, and in uniform, constantly do duty.

The *Admiralty* is a brick building, containing the office and apartments of the Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty, who superintend the marine department; and is contiguous to the Horse Guards, on the north. The principal front, facing Parliament-street, is a disgraceful piece of architecture, and ought to be replaced by something better, for the honour of the nation.

The *Treasury* is an extensive building, facing Parliament-street, on the east, and the Park on the north. The principal front, which is of stone, is in the park; and although rather too massive, is a noble pile. Vaulted passages run beneath the offices, from the park to Parliament-street, and Downing-street. A variety of offices are under the roof, generally called the Treasury, among which is the Council-chamber, commonly called the Cock-pit.

HOUSE OF LORDS AND COMMONS.



HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE present House of Lords is the old court of requests, so called because the masters of this court, in this place, anciently received the petitions of the subjects of the king, advising them in what manner to proceed. This court or hall, was fitted up for the present purpose, on the occasion of the late union of Great Britain and Ireland. The celebrated tapestry of the old House of Lords, representing the defeat of the Spanish Armada, after being taken down and cleaned, was used to decorate the walls of the present house, where it is judiciously set off by large frames of brown stained wood, that divide it into compartments, respectively containing the several portions of the story. The heads, which form a border to each design, are portraits of the gallant officers who commanded in the English fleet on that memorable

occasion. This room does not occupy the whole of the court of requests, part of the northern end being formed into a lobby, by which the commons pass to the upper house; and the height being reduced by an elevated floor of wood, over the original stone pavement. The old canopy of state, under which the throne is placed, remains as it was before the union, except that its tarnished and decayed condition is made more conspicuous by the arms of the United Kingdoms being inserted, embroidered in silk, and the supporters in silver. The throne is an armed chair, elegantly carved and gilt, and ornamented with crimson velvet and silver embroidery. The House of Lords is a very handsome, but not a splendid, room; although it is said to be prepared merely for temporary use, a new parliament house being in contemplation. Strangers may see the house at any time; and may attend, below the bar, while the house is sitting, either by the introduction of a peer, or by application to the door-keepers, No

persons are admitted in boots or great-coats, except members of the House of Commons.

Refreshments may be had at an adjoining coffee-house.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE House of Commons was formerly a chapel, originally built by King Stephen, and dedicated to St. Stephen. It was rebuilt in 1347, by Edward III. and erected by that monarch into a collegiate church, under the government of a dean and twelve secular priests. Being surrendered to Henry VI. he gave it to the Commons for their sittings, to which use it is at present applied. The old house was formed within the chapel, chiefly by a floor raised above the pavement and an inner roof, considerably below the ancient one. On the union the house was enlarged, by taking down the entire side

walls, except the buttresses that supported the original roof; and erecting others beyond, so as to give one seat in each of the recesses thus formed, by throwing back part of the walls. The present house is still too small, but in all other respects is peculiarly adapted to its use, and it is fitted up in a very good style. A handsome gallery runs along the west end, and the north and south sides are supported by slender iron pillars, crowned with gilt Corinthian capitals. The whole of the house is lined with wainscoat.

The speaker's chair stands at some distance from the wall, at the upper end of the room; it is slightly ornamented with gilding, with the king's arms at the top. The speaker is usually dressed in a train black silk gown, with a full bottomed wig. On occasions of state he wears a robe, similar to the state robe of the lord chancellor. Before him, with a small interval, is a table, at which sit three clerks of the house, with minutes of the proceedings of the house, read the titles of bills, in

their several stages, hand them up to the speaker, &c. On this table, in front, the speaker's mace always lies, when the house is sitting; except when the house is in a committee, and then it is placed under the table, and the bar is an extensive area. The member's seats occupy each side, and both ends of the room, with the exception of the passages. There are five rows of seats, rising above each other, with two short backs and green morocco cushions.

The seat on the floor, on the speaker's right hand, is that which is called the *Treasury Bench*, on which the chief members of the administration sit; and the opposite seat is usually occupied by the leading members of *Opposition*. The speaker sits with his hat off, except on particular occasions. All the members must be seated, except he who is addressing the chair, but they wear their hats or not at pleasure, except when speaking. The gallery on each side is reserved for members.

Beneath the house, in passages or apartments, appropriated to various uses, are considerable remains, in great perfection, of an under chapel of curious workmanship; and the entire side of a cloister, the roof of which is not surpassed in beauty by Henry the Seventh's chapel. A small court of the palace is also left entire; and is, with its buildings, part of the dwelling of the speaker of the House of Commons. Between the house and the river, is at present a garden belonging to the speaker.

The house may be viewed by strangers at any time, and access to the gallery obtained during the sitting, either by the introduction or order of a member, or by a *douceur* of from two to five shillings to the door-keeper.

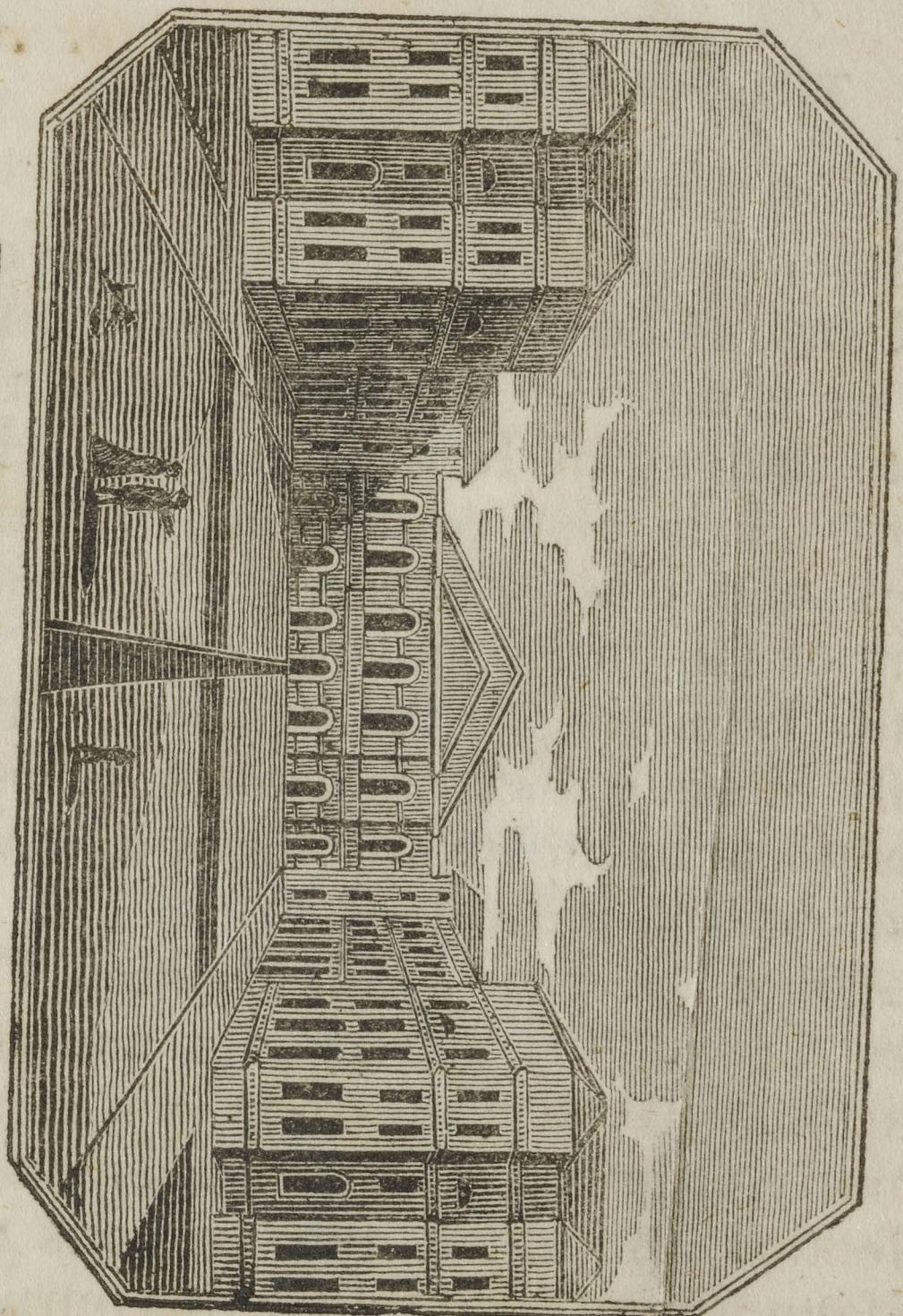
On extraordinary occasions it is necessary for strangers to be at the house as early as ten and twelve o'clock.—No ladies are admitted into the house during its sittings.

Under the same roof with the House of Commons is a coffee-room, for the

accommodation of the members.—Strangers may also dine here, or take other refreshment in an outer room used as a kitchen. On a day of great debate, it will repay the curious stranger to take his dinner in this room, which he may with convenience do, as persons in the gallery of the house are permitted (after the debate is commenced) by the custom of the place, to retain their seats while they take refreshment, and the way to the coffee-room will be shewn by any of the messengers of the house, or door-keepers.



THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.



THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

THIS hospital is situated at the end of Lamb's Conduit-street, about a quarter of a mile in a northerly direction from the end of Red Lion-street, Holborn. It is also contiguous to Brunswick and Russel-squares; the greater part of the former having built on the lands belonging to the hospital. This truly humane institution owes its establishment to the exertions of a private and obscure individual.

About the year 1722, Captain Thomas Coram, the master of a merchant ship in the American trade, a man singularly endowed with every benevolent affection, undertook the arduous task of founding an hospital for this purpose, and finally succeeded, after the labour of seventeen years. Before he presented his petition to the king, he was advised to procure a recommendation

from some persons of rank; and being presented to his majesty, a royal charter was granted, on the 17th of October, 1739, authorizing the governors of this charity to purchase real estates, not exceeding 4000l. per annum.

The number of children received into the hospital, before the end of the year, 1752, was 1040, of which 559 were at that time maintained by the charity, at an expence to which its income was by no means adequate. In 1756, therefore, the parliament voted the sum of 10,000l. to the hospital, and large sums were afterwards granted. It was found, however, that the scheme extended too far; numerous abuses crept in; the governors were finally obliged to contract their views; and, at present, from the income of their landed and funded property, and the collections of the chapel, sufficient is raised to maintain 400 children.

FINIS.

